



**NE Family Youth System Partner Meeting Minutes  
NE FYSPRT  
January 20, 2022**

**Introduction**

**Increasing Tribal/Diverse Community/Family/Youth Involvement**

**Ashley James, Youth Tri Lead**

The NE FYSPRT met on January 20, 2022. Becky Hammill convened the meeting via Zoom. Youth Tri Lead Ashley James, System Partner Co-Tri Leads Gail Kogle and Davina York, and Family Co-Lead Helen Harding were present. Ashley welcomed 32 attendees with 11 family, tribal and youth members, and 21 system partners. Ashley began the meeting by sharing the acknowledgement that we are living and working on land that originally belonged to the Tribes.

**General NE FYSPRT Business**

**A1. Contract/Compliance – Community Education**

**VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA**

LaKedia Davis and Isaac Fall shared with the NE FYSPRT their new youth shelter for individuals age 18-24. It is a 44 bed facility where individuals can sleep and receive case management assistance for housing, employment, education, and basic needs. All NE FYSPRT members were invited to tour the new facility. Individuals receive assistance with resources in a trauma informed setting. Many youth and young adults are missing case management services to connect to homeless assistance, crisis services, and systems of care advocates. The Young Adult Board of Directors currently consists of four active members. Board members are assessing the program to identify any additional needs. The Board has youth voice and it's critical that Board members have lived experience with homelessness. The shelter is currently open 7:30 PM to 6:30 AM and the individual can enter at any time.

LaKedia will provide Becky with information on the shelter to share with NE FYSPRT members.

**B. Regional Issues**

**B.1 Teen Text Line**

Kayla Barringer provided an update on the Teen Text line. It is a teen text line and warm line. It is not a crisis line. It's marketed towards teens age 13-17 and if individuals outside that range text, they can be referred appropriately. A media campaign will begin soon when staffing is complete. Schools, hospitals, Instagram, bus stop benches, and individuals sharing information



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will all be utilized. The teen text line is live from 9 AM to 8 PM. Printed materials are being finished and Excelsior will begin distributing them soon. They will go out to all six counties.

**B.2 Regional Transportation Issues**

Lisa, Rusty and Rebecca from SMS were welcomed to NE FYSPRT. Becky indicated that NE FYSPRT members had a positive conversation with SMS staff and this will be a topic of discussion at the statewide FYSPRT because transportation for individuals with behavioral health challenges and transportation of children/youth is an issue across the spectrum of NE FYSPRT regions.

**B.3 Feedback on 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter NE FYSPRT Evaluations**

Becky reported that feedback from the evaluations shows the continued identified need for increased youth, family partner and family voice. Of the 25-30 members who participate regularly in NE FYSPRT meetings, only about 5-6 complete the evaluations. Members were asked to complete the survey when they attend the meetings.

Members discussed how to increase opportunities for youth and family to attend. They noted that youth have had a full day of school and then would join NE FYSPRT right when school is out and they're tired. There was discussion of having separate meetings for youth, then families and then everyone together (youth, families, system partners) so that youth and families are not overwhelmed by system partners. Youth Move has been providing technical assistance to NE FYSPRT in outreach activities and teens will be asked to join a meeting to let NE FYSPRT members know what they'd like. Stacy Chay indicated she discusses NE FYSPRT with younger undergrad students. David Crump also indicated that student body leaders would be a good resource to get the message out. Kayla will talk with school counselors to identify any youth who may be advocates. Perhaps the NE FYSPRT co-leads could have a virtual meeting with school counselors to present NE FYSPRT information.

Erin Zerba discussed the need to hear the rural voice also. Because of the difference in population and demographics, outreach needs are different. Youth and families find it hard to have energy for one more thing.



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Youth voice matters and a marketing campaign towards “we want to hear from you” including brochures in kids’ folders would be a possibility. There is no common mechanism for all areas – different school districts, urban/rural, etc. Erin has distributed NE FYSPRT posters and pamphlets. TJ recommended exploring extra credit for participating in NE FYSPRT activities. Including NE FYSPRT information in school newsletters was also mentioned and Ashley James will followup with school districts. NEWACS provides information on NE FYSPRT and DVR to new clients. Language such as bringing youth in as an equal voice to make the system better was suggested. A separate NE FYSPRT meeting that is 100% youth lead could build commitment with those youth to join.

NE FYSPRT members acknowledged their work to bring youth and families to the NE FYSPRT table and live in a pandemic world at the same time.

**C. 2022 Work Plan**

Current AIM Statements from the Work Plan include:

- 51% representation from youth and families
  - Are the right people at the table
  - Is it worth their time
  - Door is always open for additional members
  - Is there a youth who could join the VOA Youth Advisory Board
  - Are youth/families compensated for their time (\$25 gift certificate to those who complete the evaluation)
- Address challenges and barriers that preclude participation in rural, minority and tribal communities
- Access to care and behavioral health system issues identified through annual needs assessments, the work plan and by those who participate in NE FYSPRT
  - What's working
  - What's not working
  - Opportunities for families to identify what's not working in the system
- Engage in consistent quality improvement by addressing strengths, challenges and suggestions for improvement

By completing the meeting evaluation, NE FYSPRT members can help to have a meeting that everyone wants to attend and finds useful.



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**Meeting Evaluation/Next Meeting**

Members attending today's meeting were asked to complete the NE FYSPRT evaluation. The next meeting will be remote on February 17, 2022.